FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

Microscan Offers Education on Steps to Prepare Factories for the Industrial Internet of Things

RENTON, WA, July 6, 2015 – Microscan, a global technology leader in barcode, machine vision and lighting solutions, has published an educational white paper with practical guidance about one of the most influential changes to reach the factory in over 20 years – The Industrial Internet of Things (IIoT). The white paper, "Becoming the Factory of the Future: How to Prepare Now for the Industrial Internet of Things," defines the critical elements of the Internet-enabled factory and provides steps for preparing industrial manufacturing operations for the next stage of device connectivity. Intended for beginners to IIoT and industrial connectivity, the paper offers a look into the factory of the future and details five fundamental steps that manufacturers should take now to prepare for seamless integration when the Internet reaches the factory.

It is estimated that in less than 10 years, factories of the future will harness the power of the Internet to connect devices locally and globally. Operations will be instantly accessible from anywhere over web browsers. Equipment securely linked into the Web will use data collected from any available source to maintain itself and adjust operations to meet current market trends, consumer demands, and global conditions. The competitive advantages of real-time data acquisition and the ability to respond in timely and adaptive ways to market demands will drive businesses to adopt more pervasive web-based technologies. Factories of the future will be measured not so much by their ability to produce, but to produce with the most flexibility. Industrial manufacturers are expected to remain competitive in this new era of connectivity, but implementing an Industrial Internet of Things is still largely theoretical while Internet-enabled factory devices and systems remain in the developmental stages. What can manufacturers do now to get prepared?

There are five steps that manufacturers can take now to equip themselves for Internet-based connectivity. Establishing these practices in manufacturing operations will be critical to being ready when factory technology finally catches up with the Internet on a global scale.

1. Get Digital - Put factory data in a format the Internet understands. Use sensors, barcode readers, and cameras to convert product codes and images to digital, filterable data strings.
2. Get Automated - Prepare for Internet speeds using tireless and precise factory devices that recognize and respond to critical data without manual intervention.

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3. Get Connected - Connect all factory devices on a robust industrial network. Allow machines to speak directly about factory needs to enable fully-automated processes.
4. Get Real-Time, Remote Access - Send data farther and faster. Use web services to monitor current factory conditions remotely through web browsers or electronic alerts.
5. Get Internet-Friendly Tools - Choose technology based on web protocols to make factory data accessible across all common devices from PCs to tablets to, eventually, the World Wide Web.

The process of realizing the Industrial Internet of Things will be gradual; most discussions about IIoT are no more than theories and manufacturers are only just beginning to dabble in the use of web-based technology. In the meantime, businesses can educate themselves and begin to implement the latest digital, automated, connected devices and services now to prepare their operations to integrate seamlessly with this new era of industry. Many existing industrial technologies are already able to share data in real-time, from anywhere, across platforms, even – for some – over Internet protocols. By implementing these tools as they become available, the factory of the present will keep time with the changing landscape of industry until the act of linking to the Internet is simply the next logical step.

Read the full white paper from Microscan, "Becoming the Factory of the Future: How to Prepare Now for the Industrial Internet of Things," at www.microscan.com/TrainingAndResources/whitepapers.aspx. For more information on Microscan factory automation tools, visit www.microscan.com.

About Microscan

Microscan is a global leader in technology for precision data acquisition and control solutions serving a wide range of automation and OEM applications. Founded in 1982, Microscan has a strong history of technology innovation that includes the invention of the first laser diode barcode scanner and the 2D symbology, Data Matrix. Today, Microscan remains a technology leader in automatic identification and machine vision with extensive solutions for ID tracking, traceability and inspection ranging from basic barcode reading up to complex machine vision inspection, identification, and measurement.

As an ISO 9001:2008 certified company recognized for quality leadership in the U.S., Microscan is known and trusted by customers worldwide as a provider of quality, high precision products. Microscan is a Spectris company.

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